

A TRUE and IMPARTIAL

# A C C O U N T OF THE Behaviour and Confession

OF

*John Davis, William Morris, D. Outenleck, Peter Roach, Samuel Smith, Gabriel Sheers,  
William Cottle, William Pedington, Robert Elton, Edward Gardner, Richard Halse,  
Thomas Blank, James Latchford, James Burden, Elizabeth Ellis,*

IN

## NEW GATE,

Since their Condemnation for divers Roberys on the High-way, Burglarys,  
and Felonys :

Togeth.r, with their former manner of Life, Behaviour and Conversation ; as also their  
Last Dying Speeches and Confessions at

## TYBURN,

The place of their Execution, where they suffered Death according to Sentence, on  
Wednesday the 6th. of May, 1685.

*Interd according to ORDER*

**T**HE fresh Examples of no less than 15 Persons, whose unadvisedness has occasioned their being cut off in the Meridian of their days ; are as followeth.

First, *John Davis*, casting the fear of God from him, on the 26th. of February last, snatched a Bag of Money containing about 5 l. out of the Hands of *Margret Draversfield* as she was standing in her Shop in *Fanchurch street*, but being pursued and quickly taken he was Committed to *Newgate*, and tryed at the precedent Sessions in the *Old Bayly* for the Felony and Robbery, and there according to Law, upon plain Proof Convicted and Sentenced to dye, when being returned to the place from whence he came in order to his Execution ; he began to be wonderfully sensible of his approaching Fate, confessing himself to be a Notorious Sinner, guiltless of few known Crimes but especially of *Sabbath breaking*, *Swearing* and *Debauchery*, prophaning the Name of his Maker, and adhering to Leud Company, frequenting Gaming Denarys and places of Evil Resort, declaring that when at any time he went to Church, it was with no other intent, than to pick the

Pockets of such as he observed intent at their Devotion, and that this Course of Life he lead in a flourishing state of wickedness, but considered not that the Scripture pronounces, *The End of these Things are Death*, which now tho' late he was too sadly to Experience by being cut off in the Dawn of his Life, not exceeding as he said 20 Years of Age, so early had the Tempter drawn him away to tread the Paths of Desolation.

As for his Education he confessed it was but mean, nor ever was he put to any Employment whereby to subsist: The place of his Birth was *St. Martins in the Fields*, Born he was of Laborious Parents, but despising their Instructions, he waded by degrees in the labyrinth of Sin till he was past retreating: As for the Fact for which he was Condemned he confessed it, and wished his Example might be a hindrance to other Youths from taking the like unlawful Courses: He desired the prayers of all, and so continued more and more sensible of his Approaching Desolation.

Second, *James Burden*, having received Sentence of Death as the former for stealing 9 Yards

Yards of Purple and Gold colour'd Velvet out of *Fanchurch-street* on the 14th. of *January* last, being the Goods of a Person of Quality, Convicted by his own Confession : He after his return to *Newgate* was observed to sit sad and Melancholly ; yet not being thoroughly convinced he should dye for the Fact, but expressed himself at sundry times as if he expected Mercy, but all hopes being taken away he grew more serious than before, saying he had been well brought up and instructed in Learning, but he had employed it to a wrong end for being of a rambling disposition ; he left his Parents and came to *London*, where being necessitated for what was convenient for his Support and Maintenance, he by the help of Friends got to be a Foot-man in a Merchants House in *Fanchurch-street*, and having opportunity often to be abroad, he fell into the Company of *John Maiden* and one *Watson*, with divers other Notorious Thieves who invegled him to Rob those he lived with ; but he withstood many Temptations, yet in the end was over come, and being for his Misbehaviour turned out of place ; he fell into many Debaucheries, yet being well allied, and descended of good Parentage ; he was preferred to wait upon a Person of Honour, but having been in and about *London* for the space of 3 years, he had hardened himself in the ways of wickedness and to supply himself with Money to support his Vices he had committed, the Fact for which he was to suffer. The place of his Birth he said was in *St Maries*, a Town in *Cornwall* where and near unto it he had considerable Relations living, whom he had so far disoblighed that he could not expect they should interceed for Mercy on his behalf, therefore he would cast himself at the Footstool of Gods Mercy, hoping he would Sanctifie this Affliction to him, and make it a means to bring him home to Himself, to whose Will alone be submitted.

Third, *Edward Gardener*, and *David Outenleck*, were Sentenced to Dye with those I have mentioned, for setting upon one *Thomas Boynton* in the High way near *Paddington*, on the 19th of *February* last, and Robbing him of a Ring, 30 s. in Money, a Pair of Silver Buttons, and other things of small value, that were proved against them. When returning to the place of Durance, during the respite they became very sensible of their latter end, as being conscious they were Guilty of many Crimes which had provoked Almighty God, to give them up to this which had worked their overthrow. *Gardener* declared he had formerly been acquainted with many persons of Evil Fame,

who had inticed him to commit Wickedness in a high degree, but growing poor and somewhat in debt, he Litted himself a Soldier, but then becoming acquainted with one *John Colewood* as he lay in the *Savoy*, who often came to visit him, and after divers discourtes, perswaded him to go with him upon a Design he had in hand, which he consenting to, he revealed the business and together they went, Effecting the Robbery before mentioned, but attempting the like on an other person he was wounded, at what time notwithstanding *Outenleck* carryed him off, and got one Mr. — a Chirurgion to dress his Wounds. As for his Birth and Education he confessed it was mean and that he was brought up to no profession, but in his Youth he delighted to haunt places where evil Company resorted, Gaming and Drinking was much his practice and that he had been in *London* a great part of his Lifetime being now about Twenty years of Age ; he said he had deserved Death, but if he might live he hoped to amend and that God had given him grace to see his folly : He behaved himself with much meekness and Humility yet answered cheartfully to such questions as were asked him.

*David Outenleck*, acknowledged he had been Instrumental in drawing in *Gardner* and that himself had advised with one *Colwood* to Tamper with him, that he likewise was a Soldier Born at *Fife* in *Scotland* and that he had for some time been under the command of Capt. *Miller*, but his Pay being insufficient to maintain his extravagancy and he not being capable of any Handy craft Employment, he had hearkned to evil Council : He saw the Thief and consented to him ; that is he went with *Gardner* and *Colwood* and aided them in the unlawful enterprize, but that he was but a Young beginner, this being the first Fact of that nature, though in other kinds he had been a notorious Sinner, leaving his own Country where he might have liv'd well, to ramble abroad, where he met with Company whose ways seemed pleasant to him at first, but now he found the End was bitterness ; he appeared much dejected and seemed to have a through Sense of the Condition wherein he was and was observed to be studious in things that concerned his latter End, being Aged Thirty Years.

Fourth, *William Cottle* having received Sentence of Death for breaking divers Locks in a House, he entered to steal the which appeared against him, and upon his Return to *Newgate* he was wonderous sensible of his Sins, imploring mercy at the Hands



of his maker and desiring all to be warn'd by his hard fate, which he had drawn upon himself by keeping bad Company which he had fallen early into: By Trade he said he was a Shoemaker and honestly followed his Occupation for some time, but finding a more easy way of living as he then thought (but now is too late sensible of his mistake) he neglected his Employ and followed the advice of those lewd persons that had brought him to ruin. As for the place of his Birth he said it was *Shorditch* and that his Parents had used many means to reclaim him, but he little hearkned to their reproofs, the which if he had done he verily believes he had not come to this untimely end.

Fifth, *Samuel Smith* received Sentence, for Felonically breaking and entering the House of *William Freeman*, and taking thence a parcel of Goods on the 9<sup>th</sup> of *April* last. As for his Behaviour in *Newgate* after his Condemnation, it appeared very Meek and Humble, he finding now that he could expect no mercy; he said he was once a Trunk-maker in *Shoe-Lane* and that he was Born in *Thames-street* and had lived in some Reputation, but being deluded by a Coachman, he had consented to these evil Practices, must necessarily end in shame; he said he had been brought up very well and might have continued happy had he kept to his Employment, but since what was past could not be recalled, all he had now to do was to entreat the Almighty to be merciful to his poor Soul: He said he was put an Apprentice at Seventeen Years Old and now was Twenty six, and must be cut off in the Flower of his Days.

Sixth, *James Latchford*, being Condemned for stealing a sword, or being in Confederacie with him that stole it, by jostling *Thomas Bugg* the owner as he passed through *Luigate*, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of *April* in the Evening, and for which upon his being apprehended, he had promised Restitution tho' the sword was not found in his Possession, nor has since been heard of; but finding himself in a deplorable Condition, he much lamented his past Ill-spent Life; saying, he had been a great breaker of the *Sabbath* and regardless of Gods worship given up to divers prophane ways and un-christian-like Expressions, which had as he nearly believed, incensed the Majesty of Heaven to lay this affliction upon him: He said he was born at *Bolton* in *Lancashire*, but sent up Young to *London*, where his indulgent Parents had provided a Master of a Ship, to entertain him as an Apprentice, but he stayed not long with him ere he was weary of that Employment, and by his own

choice put to a Broad-weaver, where having to much liberty, he fell into bad company: But as to the Fact for which he stood Condemned, he seem'd to deny it; nor did it appear he had been in *Newgate* before. Yet was he wonderful Sensible of his Latter End, and greatly bewail'd his misfortune that he should in his Youthful days have his hopes cut off by an untimely Death, he not exceeding 20 years of Age.

Seventhly, *Robert Elton* Sentenced, for Breaching into the House of *Samuel Smith* in the night time, in the Parish of *St John Baptists*, and taking Money and Plate to a considerable value into his possession with an intent to carry it the ce and convert it to his own use, but before he could make his escape, was Apprehended in the Celler, whelmed under a Basket, with part of the Money in his Pocket, and the rest lying by him, together with several peices of Plate &c. The Fact was so plain, he denyed it not, but greatly Lamented his misfortune, being very attentive to such as gave him advice, tending the welfare of his Soul. He said he was Born in the Kingdom of *Scotland*, where he proved disobedient to his Parents, who had brought him up to Learning and Instructed him in the ways of Piety, had he had the Grace to follow their directions but being Head-strong, he refused to be compliant, which they perceiving, bound him Apprentice to an Apothecary in *Scotland*, but he stayed not with him long before he was inticed away by Evil Company, who prompted him to divers mischiefs which by degrees hardning him in Iniquity, he fearless of Sinning, run into all the excess his Youth was capable of Ading. He at the time of his Condemnation, (not exceeding 17 years of Age) desiring all that heard of his sad End to take warning by his fall, which when known, he verily believes will break his Parents Hearts, their comfort upon Earth being solely centered in him.

Eight, *William Tedi-gon* receiving Sentence for deserting his Colours, and being returned to *Newgate* confessed he had been Guilty of many Sins which sat heavy upon his Conscience; but as for Theft or such like Crimes he was innocent, saying the occasion of his desertion, was by reason of his being Inebriated, and the continual Clamour his Creditors made, which he was not able to endure, adding that his Sins had deserved a greater Punishment, therefore he would bear it with a Christian-like Patience, in hopes of a better State hereafter; and if he Died, would Dye in Charity with all men, freely forgiving all the World, adding that his days had been but few upon the Earth, he not exceeding 16 years, but desired Gods will might be done, and he would rest himself satisfied.

Ninth, *Peter Roach*, and *Richard Hasel*, were Condemned for entering the House of *Alexander Henderson* Minister of *Steyns*, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of *January* last under pretence of delivering a Letter, and forceably seizing him and his Wife, from whom they took three Rings and a Silver-tipt-Mug, and putting them in Corporal fear of their Lives; who being Reconveyed from the Sessions House to *Newgate*, on a suddain became very Pensive; the former Confessing that he had been drawn into this and other mischiefs, by *Callwood* (yet untaken)

and

at he of himself, was prone to no such Out-  
 but lived a considerable time honestly, being  
 in the County of Roscomon in Ireland; second-  
 honest and industrious Parents, yet his Edu-  
 on was but Indifferent, as to Learning or the  
 : But being arrived at years of Maturity he  
 ered the Kings service, Listing himself a Soul-  
 : under the Command of Colonel-- -- going  
 h him into *Flancers*, but being there Disbanded  
 came into *England*, and Listed himself in the Re-  
 ment of the Right Honourable the Earl of *Cra-*  
*on*, but having such overtures as he imagined  
 could prove a Advantageous to him, made by *Gil-*  
*ood*, he unadvisedly harkened to them, and was  
 not only concerned in this business, but had been  
 often upon the high-way, adding that he wished he  
 had wherewithal to make Restitution for the In-  
 jury he had done, but seeing he had not, he hoped  
 they that he had injured would forgive him as he was  
 a Dying man, and so be cut off in the 22d. year of  
 his Age.

*H. Jfe* likewise complained of *Cherod*, saying  
 that he had drawn him into this inevitable Ruine  
 by enticing him to follow those practices, the  
 Laws had made Punishable with Death, and that he  
 had not only committed Robberies and Villages in  
*England*, but in the *East-Indies* and *France*, where  
 he had been a Soldier, but now layed his modest  
 unteignedly to heart, hoping that in his last Ex-  
 tremity he should find Mercy from the God of *Mer-*  
*cys*, who is able to save to the utmost all those  
 come unto him, saying, that he had run out a  
 course of fifty years, for the most part in Sin.

Tenth, *William Allen* being Condemned for a  
 Felony and Burglary, committed on and in the house  
 of Mrs. *Anne Butler* of *St. Martin in the Fields* on  
 the 26th. of *May* last in the Night time; taking  
 thence a Feather Bed, Blankets, Carpets, &c. &c.  
 Fact he owned, discharging divers that were tied  
 with him, and accused of the Crime, either in Facts  
 or Conspiracy; when upon his return to  
*Assize* with the rest, he shewing much in exten-  
 sion his Crimes, and was not altogether free from  
 flattering himself with hopes of a Pardon; but in the  
 end perceiving his hopes were Groundless and vain,  
 he therefore began to humble himself, saying he had  
 fallen into ill Company and Gaming, which had in-  
 duced him to commit so heinous a Crime: that he  
 had been prodigate and prophane for many years he  
 owned; but that this was the first Fact of the like  
 Nature or any thing relating to it: as he declared  
 likewise: As for the place of his Pirth, he said  
 it was *Edinburgh*, where he was brought up in much  
 Decency and good Breeding but rambling after his  
 own Inventions this hard Fate had overtaken him in  
 the One and Twentieth Year of his Age, tho' he  
 promised a longer Life to himself, and had put far a-  
 way the Last Day, but hoped God would not lay those  
 Sins to his charge, when he should appear before his  
 dread Tribunal.

Eleventh, *Gabriel Sheers* having received Sentence  
 for a Horse taken from *Richard Watson* on the High-  
 way between *Battersea* and *Fox-Hall* in *Surry*, but  
 found in *Abundance*: He now grew sensible of his  
 mistaken Felicity, repenting the Day that he listen-  
 ed to the Temptation, and harkned to the Advice  
 of such as prompted him to his Ruin; he said  
 he was Born at *Leeds*, in the County of

*YORK* of honest Parents, who brought him  
 up to *Larnig*, put him Apprentice to a Mercer in  
*Durham* and afterwards set him up, but he failing  
 in the World and coming up to *London*, fell into  
 that Company, who working upon his necessity  
 brought him into this disgrace, but he freely forgave  
 them as he hoped God would forgive him and have  
 Mercy upon his poor Soul.

Twelveth, *Thomas Blank*, about Three and Twen-  
 ty Years of Age, being Sentenced for stealing Four  
 Horses, Two Bridles and a Saddle, greatly bewailed  
 his Misfortune saying, Necessity occasioned, by his  
 Extravagancies had prompted him to Commit that  
 Wickedness, that he was brought up to better Prin-  
 ciples: His Parents being tender of him, and sending  
 him to School till he was pretty well instructed, and  
 then was he put Apprentice to a Butcher, in which  
 Calling he might have lived well, but his craving  
 Appetite put him upon evil Courses for the place of  
 his Birth he said it was *Hounslow*; and that his time of  
 Service being expired he had left his Master and fal-  
 len into bad Company, by whose Example he had  
 ruined himself, yet imagined that for his many De-  
 bauches, God had suffered him to run into this great  
 Extravagance, which he hoped would be a warning  
 to those who would take Example by his Misery.

Thirteenth, *Elizabeth Ellis* being Condemned for  
 taking divers Curtains and other Goods of Value,  
 out of the House where she Lodged, and converting  
 them to her proper use: The Sense of which Sen-  
 tence she took so grievously that Tears flowed from  
 her eyes, and caused her to confess her  
 many Crimes that loaded her Soul: She said she  
 had been a Whore, and would not adict her self  
 to the way as she ought, but harkned to leud Com-  
 pany, and debauched Persons, tho' she had been bet-  
 ter educated, and lived in divers places of Credit;  
 and now came to her self, and gave Glory  
 to God, and made her to sensible of her latter End.

On the 7th. day, the 7th. Instant, they were put  
 into several Carts and Conveyed to *Tyburn* in order  
 to suffer the Penalty of the Sentence passed upon  
 them, where being put into Two Carts and Tied up, they  
 expressed them exceeding heavy and sorrowful, *Devis* ad-  
 monished the Spectators to be warned by his untimely End;  
 tho' himself had taken no warning by the Execution of others  
 whom he had frequently seen suffer in that place and commit-  
 ted Perry Robberies, whilst his accomplices were tied up  
 to the Gallows; then turning to his Brother in Law, he desired  
 him to buy his cloath of the Executioner, not to Bury him till  
 the 7 Instant, and that he would kindly remember him to his  
 Sister, whose advice if he had taken, he had never came to  
 such an end. *Sheers* likewise bewailed his unhappy state, say-  
 ing, he had been a grievous sinner, and that he had deserved  
 Death, though he was but a Young man and hoped his fall  
 might be a means to warn others and if so he should Dye the  
 joyful. *Peddington* made a long speech about his hard usage &c.  
 that if he could have had time or liberty to worke at his trade  
 he could have paid his debts and be contented.

Further proceeded as he was a Dying man, he had never taken  
 by violence any thing from any person, and he forgave all  
 that had injured him as he hoped to be forgiven.

*Halse* said that he blessed God he feared not to Dye and  
 thereupon desiring God to bless and prosper his Majesty King  
*James* the Second; he took his leave of his Friends, desiring  
 his fellow Soldiers that stood as Spectators, to help him out  
 of his pains, and to continued praying to the last; as for the  
 rest they said little, only expressing an extraordinary sorrow  
 for their sins, whereupon prayers ended and part of a Psalm  
 sung the Carts drew away and left them to the mercy of  
 their Creator. As for the other Eight mentioned in the Sessions  
 Book to be Condem'd with them, received a gracious Reprieve.



